

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5650

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TAGS: PFOR, KS
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENT TO BE MADE
 FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH

REF: (A) STATE 178407, (B) TOKYO 10911, (C) TOKYO 10970

1. MOFA HAS PASSED US FOLLOWING ADVANCED TEXT OF STATEMENT
BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PAK TONG-CHIN ON PROPOSAL
REGARDING KOREAN SITUATION TO BE INCLUDED IN SECRETARY'S
JULY 22 SPEECH IN SEATTLE. STATEMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO
ROK PRESS 10:00 A.M. JULY 23, 1976.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ON THE PROPOSAL MADE BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER
OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE KOREAN SITUATION:

SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER OF THE UNITED STATES, IN
HIS ADDRESS ON 22 JULY, 1976 BEFORE THE WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL IN SEATTLE, HAS MADE PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
KOREA.

WHILE REEMPHASIZING THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE
SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SECRETARY KISSINGER
HAS PROPOSED TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE AIMED AT NEGOTIATING
THE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ON THE KOREAN PENIN-
SULA AMONG THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED DURING THE
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FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IN NEW YORK OR SOME OTHER MUTUALLY AGREEABLE PLACE. HE
FURTHER INDICATED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO
BEGIN IMMEDIATE DISCUSSIONS TO ARRANGE SUCH CONFERENCE.

IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE CURRENT TENSION ON THE KOREAN
PENINSULA AND EXPEDITE THE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF
KOREA, THIS PROPOSAL, WE BELIEVE, SHOULD BE GIVEN THE
MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES HELD CONSULTATION
REGARDING THE PROPOSAL.

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS DELIBERATED
THE KOREAN QUESTION FOR ALMOST THREE DECADES AND ADOPTED
NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS THEREON. YET NO FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTION
OF THE KOREAN QUESTION HAS BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT. OUR LONG
EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS CAN BE
EXPECTED TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN PROBLEM
WITHOUT THE DIRECT TALK AND THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
SOUTH AND THE NORTH OF KOREA.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES
THE UNCONDITIONAL RESUMPTION OF THE SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE
AND THE CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES DIRECTLY
CONCERNED ARE THE MOST REALISTIC AND RATIONAL APPROACH
TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS ON KOREA.
IT IS, THEREFORE, HOPEFUL THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA AND NORTH KOREA WILL GIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE
TO THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY
OF STATE SO THAT THE CONFERENCE OF THE FOUR PARTIES
CONCERNED COULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BY TAKING SUCH A CONSTRUCTIVE STEP, WE BELIEVE, WE
CAN NOT ONLY REDUCE TENSION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA
WHICH IS A PREREQUISITE TO THE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF
KOREA BUT ALSO RESTORE MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN THE SOUTH
AND THE NORTH OF KOREA AS SET FORTH AS ONE OF THE COMMON
OBJECTIVES IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 4, 1972.
MOREOVER, SUCH A CONCILIATORY APPROACH WILL HELP PUT AN
END TO THE STERILE AND UNPRODUCTIVE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN
THE TWO OPPOSING PARTIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL FORA.
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END QUOTE.
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